

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-25 (Canceled)

26. (Previously Presented) Apparatus comprising:
a cylindrical introducer member with an outer wall and a hollow core, the cylindrical member having a longitudinal axis and an opening along a side; and
a hollow tube slidable in the hollow core with a hollow tube opening about the size of the opening and a cutting wire positioned on one end of the hollow tube opening.
27. (Previously Presented) Apparatus of claim 26 wherein the wire comprises a ceramic.
28. (Previously Presented) Apparatus of claim 26 wherein the wire is to be energized at a first frequency to cut tissue during a first traverse of the opening and at a second frequency to coagulate the cut tissue during a second traverse of the opening.
29. (Previously Presented) Apparatus comprising:
a cylindrical introducer member with an outer wall and a hollow core, the cylindrical member having a longitudinal axis and an opening along a side; and
a hollow tube slidable in the hollow core with a hollow tube opening about the size of the opening and a cutting wire positioned at an end of the hollow tube and forming an edge of the hollow tube opening.
30. (Previously Presented) Apparatus of claim 29 wherein the hollow tube comprises titanium.
31. (Previously Presented) Apparatus of claim 29 wherein the cutting wire is to be energized at a first frequency to cut tissue during a first traverse of the opening and at a second frequency to coagulate the tissue during a second traverse of the opening.

32. (Withdrawn) Apparatus comprising:

a biocompatible cylindrical introducer member with an outer wall and a hollow core, the cylindrical member having a longitudinal axis and an opening along a side; and

a hollow tube slidable in the hollow core including a cutting surface formed from or supported along an edge of a wall of the hollow tube such that rotating the hollow tube in the introducer member causes the cutting surface to move in a direction that is both in part parallel to the longitudinal axis and transverse to the longitudinal axis.

33. (Withdrawn) Apparatus according to claim 32 further including means for coagulating blood that is positioned adjacent to and behind the cutting surface.

34. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 26, further comprising an ultrasound energy source coupled to the cutting wire.

35. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 29, further comprising an ultrasound energy source coupled to the cutting wire.